



Practitioner's Docket No.: 815_001

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re the application of: Masahiko NAMERIKAWA, Kazuyoshi SHIBATA and Masaki IWAMOTO

Ser. No.: 09/918,274

Art Unit: 2834

Filed: July 30, 2001

Examiner: Not Assigned

Confirmation No.: 2785

For: PIEZOELECTRIC/ELECTROSTRRICTIVE ELEMENT AND
PIEZOELECTRIC/ELECTROSTRRICTIVE DEVICE AND PRODUCTION METHOD
THEREOF

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 addressed to the **Box Missing Parts, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231** on December 28, 2001.

Elizabeth A. VanAntwerp
Elizabeth A. VanAntwerp

Box Missing Parts
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants wish to amend the subject application as follows:

In the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten abstract:

ABSTRACT

A piezoelectric/electrostrictive element including a substantially trapezoidal laminate having narrower and wider surfaces lying substantially in parallel to each other and first and second surfaces opposed to each other between the narrower and wider surfaces. The first and second surfaces are inclined at given angles to one of the narrower and wider surfaces. The laminate includes piezoelectric/electrostrictive layers and interposed internal electrodes, the internal electrodes being broken up into a first and a second group, each of the first group internal electrodes lying over one of the second group internal electrodes through one of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive layers. A first external electrode is formed on the first surface of the laminate and is coupled to the first group internal electrodes. A second external electrode is formed on the second surface of the laminate and is coupled to the second group internal electrodes.

REMARKS

Prior to examination, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment in which the abstract has been amended to correct minor informalities.

If the Examiner believes that contact with applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,


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